

Saddam Hussein And U.S. 'Declinism'

Continued From Page 1

Al Balk's book, *The Myth of America Eclipse: The New Global Age*, was recently published by Transaction Books, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, N.J. 08903. 201 pp. \$29.95.

shows, will remain at least through 2020 twice the size of Japan's.

We're "deindustrializing"? Hardly — manufacturing has held at 24 per cent of GNP as, following farming's precedent, we reindustrialize to require fewer workers. More than in other mature economies, a growing service sector employs the surplus, at good pay if adequately educated and retrained.

We're "uncompetitive"? As world trade has expanded our exports have held at 17 per cent of global totals (while we've increased imbalances largely by heavy imports of oil and products of U.S. subsidiaries abroad).

"Losing" the auto and electronics "races"? If so, why are GM and Ford by far Nos. 1 and 2 internationally in sales, with 22 per cent of Western Europe's market alone? Or is an American, not Japanese, firm (IBM) the world's No. 1 chipmaker (manufacturing only for itself)? Or is 60 per cent of the world's computer industry controlled by the U.S. (compared to 20 per cent by Japan) — with us dominating supercomputers, microprocessors, and software? Clearly, nobody can be — or stay — No. 1 in everything.

What's really happening? We perceive decline partly because of Camelot, the "future shock" of Megachange, and faulty priorities that have sapped our national social programs, infrastructures and quality of life. But despite severe problems we have ample resources, if refocused, to cope.

Enter leg No. 2: That is that, propelled by technology's irresistible law of acceleration, human society has evolved into an interdependent, pre-Space Age global village, with instant communications, a world language (English), and globalized business and

political structures built on American models.

Cross-national investment, joint ventures, and consolidations are norms.

Headline-oriented, episode-based journalism misses this, but again we lead: One-fifth of the U.S. corporate assets are outside our borders (GM and Ford alone obtain over half their profits abroad).

About half of IBM's and other U.S. giants' employees are outside the U.S. The U.S., Japanese, and West European economies are so entwined that we prosper or stagnate together. Meanwhile, U.S. science remains preeminent.

Saddam Hussein? No imperial power could have put him down quickly. He's both a powerfully-armed dictator and a harbinger of coming destabilizers in the turbulent post-colonial, post Cold War years ahead. In an age of costly, destructive, high-technology weapons, such despots will prove manageable, if at all, only by collective action.

For the foreseeable future who will broker and orchestrate this new global-age order? One guess. That's eclipse?

Media Open War Desks

By Debra Gersh
Editor & Publisher Magazine

For the first time since the Vietnam War, general news wire services have put their "war desks" into action.

Associated Press and United Press International have assigned a war desk to coordinate copy and monitor the situation in the Persian Gulf around the clock. Reuters has beefed up round-the-clock operations with a Gulf Crisis Desk.

The AP war desk includes a 24-hour tv monitoring desk, as well as a packaging desk to coordinate the tremendous amount of copy being filed into a manageable package for members, according to a staff memo from executive editor William E. Ahern.

Its editorial and photo staffs in Saudi Arabia and surrounding Gulf countries have been increased, as has reporting from the United Nations in New York.

A number of AP staffers coordinating coverage overseas — including Edie Lederer at the Joint Information Command Headquarters in Dhahran — also helped cover Vietnam.

UPI also has a war desk staffed 24 hours a day and someone in its Pentagon bureau around the clock. Like the AP, it has increased the number of staffers in the Gulf region and around the world.

One difference, however, is that UPI is making its product — news reports, photographs, broadcast, etc. — available to anyone who wants it, whether a UPI client or not. Frontline, as it is called, includes no restrictions on length of contract or how the service is received — by modem, fax or overnight mail.

Milt Capps, UPI senior vice president, said the wire service hopes at least to break even with UPI Frontline. Competitive coverage of the Gulf is crucial for UPI, a chance to prove it is competitive as it seeks a buyer.

"If there's anything to be bought, we'd better do a good job with this," commented Pieter VanBennekom, executive vice president/editorial operations, "People will be watching intensely to see if UPI is up to this."

Reuters' Gulf Crisis Desk in New York City was in operation according to Andrew Nibley, editor/Americas. While New York is always a 24-hour operation, Nibley explained that additional staffers were brought in from other bureaus.

OPC Calendar

Events at 3 W. 51st St. unless noted.
Event reservations 212-983-4655
Lodging and meal reservations 212-582-5454

Monday, Feb. 11, 5:30 p.m. Board of Governors.

Monday, Feb. 11, "Nick and Nora" Theatre Party at St. James Theater. 5:30 p.m. Dinner, 8:00 p.m. curtain. Information: 212-582-5454.

Wednesday, March 13, 12:30 p.m. Board of Governors lunch.

Tuesday, April 23. Annual Awards Dinner, Grand Hyatt Hotel.

Monday, June 3 through Tuesday, June 11, OPC Ireland Trip. Last call! Deposits are due immediately; trip will be cancelled if insufficient number sign up. Call Len Saffir 212-362-7099 or Ralph Gardner 212-877-6820.

Andy Rooney Predicts

By FRED FERGUSON

Andy Rooney, vigorously denying he could, went right ahead and fulfilled his advance OPC billing. We had said he would forecast the year ahead.

No simple trick this, of course, but the inimitable columnist, correspondent, author, TV personality and whatnot, declared that in '91 he could predict with some certainty that George Bush would make a number of statements and that, in that very same year, a good many people would die. No doubt, he said, a number would also be born.

Buoyed by his reception by 80-odd OPCers and guests, Rooney got down to what he said would happen to us, personally. We would pay our taxes, or not pay them; continue to work or a reasonable facsimile thereof and watch a lot of television, or not watch it.

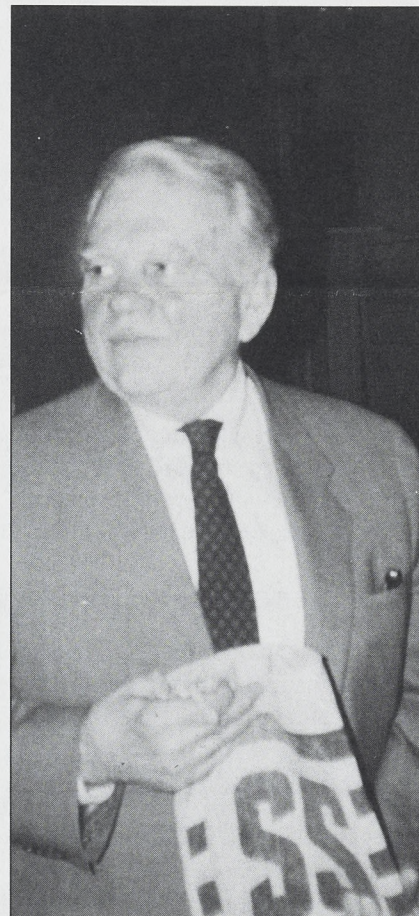
OPC President H. L. Stevenson presented Rooney a European *Stars & Stripes* dispatch bag provided as a memento of his days on *Stripes* in WWII by ex-managing editor and chronicler of *Stripes* Ken Zumwalt.

We were treated to a detailed description of how Rooney gets his mail; he feels he gets far too much. Letters from readers, he said, are put in envelopes and mailed to local newspapers in which he is syndicated or TV stations.

These letters are put in larger envelopes and mailed to the syndicate or network which then puts them in even larger envelopes and mails them to him at home. If he then proceeded to try to open them all, let alone answer them, he said he would have absolutely no time for anything else.

Of his recent, quickly terminated, suspension from "60 Minutes" he said, "I believe I escaped being labeled a bigot because the American public perceived that I am not."

Finally, Rooney encouraged us all to become famous. He said there is a shortage of well known people "and we've got to find some way to create more of them." This will relieve him of the pressures imposed by the deluge of mail he receives.



Andy Rooney receives vintage *Stars & Stripes* dispatch bag like ones he used during WWII from OPC. —Photo Fred Ferguson

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OPC Bulletin

Overseas Press Club of America
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DoD Pools Have Their Ups, Downs

By ALEXANDER G. HIGGINS
Associated Press Writer

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia—Reporters operate under Pentagon restrictions in the Persian Gulf and there have been some heated arguments, but relatively few problems in getting the news out.

Reporters have registered some complaints, especially about delays in releasing copy. There have been disputes about suspected attempts at military censorship.

Lt. Col. Larry Icenogle of the U.S. Army, who organizes "news pools" to cover U.S. operations, said the difficulties generally have been minor, involving misguided officers or trouble in getting copy from remote locations.

Icenogle said the intent is to provide maximum coverage of the war without imposing censorship

or endangering allied operations. "We don't want to have another "Grenada," he said. "We don't want another Panama."

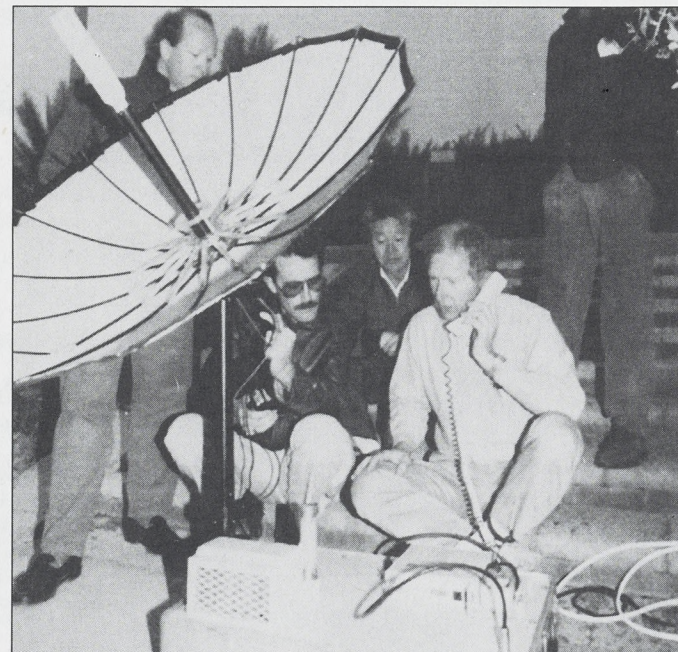
After American news organizations were frozen out of coverage of the 1983 U.S. invasion of Grenada, the Pentagon agreed to allow pools of reporters to cover future combat.

The first test of that, the invasion of Panama in December 1989, "was a disaster," Icenogle said. Reporters in a pool were isolated from combat until the fighting was nearly over.

Bottlenecks also are possible after copy leaves military hands.

The print reporters' own distribution system broke down for 12 hours because a Saudi office equipment company failed

Continued On Page 4



Foreign correspondents use satellite phone to report from Baghdad one day after the allied attack. —Photo Courtesy AP

Gulf War & United States 'Declinism'

By AL BALK

If you're the perpetrator of a book titled *The Myth of the American Eclipse: The New Global Age*, and Saddam Hussein successfully defies U.S. power for months, where does that leave your premise?

Alive and well, thank you. My premise stands on two legs: 1) that not only are obituaries for U.S. leadership premature, but 2) we've entered a new age requiring new criteria for measuring power. *L'affaire* Hussein proves, not disproves, my case.

Consider its first leg. The "declinists" argument rests on comparisons with a postwar "Camelot" in which U.S. growth and international prerogatives soared atypically due to great-power decolonization and war-scarred rivals' need for industrial recovery. Before World War II there were about five great powers; we're back to that, with the U.S. No. 1.

For decades, through wars and depressions, our economic growth has averaged no less than 2 to 3 percent yearly. Notwithstanding Japan's rise and OPEC's 1973 price shocks, we've held to that, along with steady shares of world GNP, manufacturing, and trade. Our economy is — and, a Pentagon study

Continued On Page 5

Who's doing what, when,

By AL KAFF and RALPH GARDNER

Mary Novick Celebrates 19 Years With OPC

Mary Novick, manager of the OPC will celebrate 19 years with the Overseas Press Club, on February 14th. She started working at OPC in 1972 as the banquet manager after eight years with the Columbia University Club.

Sterber, FitzGerald Wed

Jim Sterba, who covered Vietnam and other parts of Southeast Asia for the *Wall Street Journal*, and Frances FitzGerald, author and writer, were married in Barbados on Dec. 22. FitzGerald's 1972 book about Vietnam, *Fire in the Lake*, won the Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction. Sterba now writes for the *Wall Street Journal* in New York.

Sweeting Calendar

Charles Sweeting has issued his British and Commonwealth Calendar through April, 1991—everything from the Clan McDuff Golf Outing and Glyndwr Day in Wales to Julie Angrews' birthday (her 55th) and Margaret Thatcher's 65th. (Subscription information: 71 W. 23rd St., Suite 605, New York, NY 10010).

Eynon Is Stamp Screener

David Lewis Eynon, executive vice president of Amichetti, Lewis and Associates Inc., in Wayne, PA, has been named — along with actor Karl Malden — to the U.S. Postal Service Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee.

Ted Marks Consulting

Ted Marks, a senior vice president of Knight-Ridder, has left the newspaper

group to start Marks & Frederick Associates, Inc. a management consulting firm which focuses on the development of global information alliances. Marks worked with UPI, including 10 years in the Far East, five years as the news service's senior manager in Tokyo.

Whitman Bassow Column

Whitman Bassow, PhD, joined *Environmental Protection* as contributing editor. He will write a column on international environmental affairs. Bassow, president of Whitman Bassow and Associates Inc. New York, was senior public affairs officer for the U.N. and spent 10 years with Newsweek and UPI in Moscow and Paris.

Lipsky Founds Weekly

Seth Lipsky, a former reporter, humor columnist, war correspondent and editor for the Asian, European and U.S. editions of the *Wall Street Journal*, achieved a longtime goal last May when he founded a national Jewish weekly newspaper, *Forward*, in New York. It is the only Jewish newspaper with a correspondent in the Soviet Union.

Edward Bernays Is 99

Veteran OPCer Edward Bernays, the father of public relations, celebrated his 99th birthday visiting students at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. He met with faculty for two hours, held a two-hour press conference and after lunch, lectured to several classes.

Don Peretz On Intifada

OPCer Don Peretz's new book, *Intifada: the Palestinian Uprising*, has been published by Westview Press. It is an extension of his article in *Foreign Affairs*.



Ted Macuauley of L'Express and Carol Delphin of Paris were married in Mexico, went on to Hong Kong, Bangkok, Tokyo and Seoul. Ted's parents, Doris and Thurston, also OPC members, returned from the United Kingdom to their home in Villefranche-sur-Mer on the Mediterranean, where they are working on novels.

Ziffren Collection Shown

The Hoover Institution has established the Lester Ziffren Collection of Spanish Civil War memorabilia. Ziffren headed the Madrid Bureau of UP in 1936.

OPC Bulletin

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here, there, everywhere

Share your assignments, travels, awards, activities. Overseas members: Al Kaff, Cornell University News Service, 840 Hanshaw Road, Ithaca, NY 14850-1548, USA. Domestic members: Ralph Gardner, OPC Bulletin, Suite 2116, 310 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.

Beiser Edits AFP-Extel European Financial Wire

Mel Beiser is managing editor for AFP-Extel, a new European economic and financial news service.

The service, AFX for short, is a venture of Agence France-Presse and Extel Financial headquartered in London with correspondents in the continent's financial centers, New York, Washington and Tokyo.

Beiser was formerly chief news editor of Reuters Economic Services in London, manager editor of Reuters North America and managing editor, Standard & Poor's News Service in New York.

Sergin Heads JFK Comm.

Member Stephen Sergin chairs a JFK Memorial committee in Waterbury, CT. The dedication is set for Nov. 8, 1991.

Golden Globe For Sattler

OPCer John Sattler, of Hampton Bays, NY, received the Golden Globe Trophy from the International Public Relations Society. John is celebrating his 50th anniversary in public relations.

Diamonds In London & Va.

Walter Diamond, editor and publisher of Overseas Press and Consultants, presented the keynote speech to the 42nd Virginia Conference on World Trade. Later, Walter and wife Dorothy spoke at the London Offshore Institute.

Davis Joins PRSA College

Stafford G. Davis, a Tulsa corporate communications consultant for ONEOK, Inc., has been elected to the Public Relations Society of America's College of Fellows, one of its highest honors.



Maria Ferris' TV program, Common Concerns, is a winner of Cable TV Networks' 1990 CAPE (Cable Achievement in Programming Excellence) Award.

Woody Edwards, Veteran Of AP & OPC, Dead At 76

Forrest (Woody) Edwards, an AP reporter for nearly 40 years, died in San Francisco Jan. 17, eight days after he donated to the OPC a poignant memento from the Korean War.

Edwards, 76, died after a long struggle against heart disease. His widow, the former Louise Bradley, found him in bed, a magazine in his hand and his reading light on.

"Forrest had been watchng the outbreak of the Gulf War on television the night before," she said. "He was excited and kept talking to me about how the war should be fought."

On Jan. 9, Edwards, a longtime OPC member, wrote to the club about an American flag that had been made by

a young U.S. prisoner of war in North Korea. The POW, whose name Edwards has forgotten, gave him the flag at Panmunjom after Edwards interviewed him during the 1953 prisoner repatriation.

"The soldier told me that he as well as a number of other Americans held in the POW camps had made their own flags, using blue ink and either a red ink or some kind of a red disinfectant they got from a guard," Edwards wrote.

He said that he hoped the OPC would frame and mount the flag as a memory of the Korean War — "you know, that war that so many have forgotten." Edwards told the GI that he should keep the flag for his future children or grandchildren. But, starting to cry, the soldier shoved the flag into Edwards' hands, saying, "I don't need it anymore."

Edwards was born in North Dakota, and joined the AP in 1942, working in Kansas City, Santa Fe and San Francisco before becoming a war correspondent in Korea.

He was based in Hong Kong to coordinate coverage of the Vietnam conflict. After Vietnam, he worked in AP bureaus in Honolulu and Los Angeles before retiring.

Producers of "M*A*S*H," a TV series about a Korean War medical unit, used Edwards as a consultant.

Ralph Paine, Jr., 84

Ralph Paine Jr., 84, former publisher of Fortune and a war correspondent in the Pacific during World War II, died of heart failure Jan. 12, in New York. Paine was publisher of Fortune from 1953 to 1967, after stints as Henry Luce's personal assistant, managing director of "The March of Time," head of European operations for Time publications and as a reporter in the Pacific theater.

Obituaries

Marcia Drennan, 75

Marcia Drennen, a long-time member, died last Easter in New York. She worked at Readers' Digest from 1958 to 1980, including time as senior editor for Condensed Books and won an award from the American Poetry Association. Born 1915 in Columbus, OH, she graduated from Ohio State University in 1936.

Michael Goldsmith, 68

Michael Goldsmith, 68, an AP correspondent for 45 years, died of a stomach hemorrhage Oct. 24 at a hospital in France.

He reported on turmoil in the Congo, Algeria and South Yemen, and the building of the Berlin Wall. He went to Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, then to the Paris peace talks. "Wherever the big story was — within his territory or outside it — when we sent Mike there, we knew that the story would nestle safely in the hands of a pro," said Louis D. Boccardi, AP president and general manager.

Goldsmith was born in Vienna to British parents, studied at London University, and served as an intelligence officer in the British Army. He is survived by his wife, Roxanne and four children.

Wilson D. Hall, 68

Wilson D. Hall, 68, an NBC correspondent during the Korean War, died of pulmonary disease in Jackson-Madison County Hospital, Jackson, TN, on Jan. 10. He worked for NBC for 26 years in the Middle East, Cuba, Vietnam, New York and Washington. In 1978 he joined a CBS affiliate in Albany, NY. He taught at the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut before joining the faculty at the University of Tennessee in 1984.

Charlotte Weber

Charlotte Ebener Weller, who as a correspondent for INS covered turmoil in Asia after World War II, civil war in Greece, and strife in the Middle East, died Oct. 9 of cardiac arrest at a hospital near her home in San Felice Di Circeo, Italy. She was the wife of George Weller, a correspondent for the Chicago *Daily News*. Ebener, born in Milwaukee, was a stringer for Newsweek INS in Chungking. Her book, *No Facilities for Women*, was published in 1955 by Knopf.

DoD Pools

Continued From page 1

to deliver photocopying supplies. Reporters had to share a single copy of pool reports.

Reports from Neil MacFarquhar, an AP reporter on a U.S. aircraft carrier at sea, were delayed up to three days by the Navy. Icenogle blamed the problem on lack of transportation from ship to shore, but MacFarquhar's copy also has been delayed when transmitted to shore electronically.

Icenogle said a New York *Times* dispatch on the Stealth fighter was delayed despite the best intentions of the unit commander, who had the material sent by military fax to Nevada for relay by commercial fax to Dhahran.

An officer in Nevada who shouldn't have been involved started questioning whether certain details should be included in the report and delayed its return to Saudi Arabia for several hours, Icenogle said.

In another case, a Navy officer told military authorities to examine 15 rolls of film before releasing them. Icenogle

said the film of familiar planes loaded with common weapons was "most innocuous" and the officer had been rebuked, but the film was delayed several hours."

A pool photograph showing Iraqi prisoners of war in Saudi Arabia was delayed nearly two hours.

Some pool reports contain military humor in questionable or bad taste. "Try getting that in your local paper," a reporter said, mentioning a mascot dog's unpublished name.

Reporters and editors often suspect the military is worried about losing public support, as in the Vietnam war, where the media had free rein in coverage.

Journalists in Vietnam conveyed their doubts about the U.S. operation to the American public, especially when their observations of problems in combat ran counter to optimistic accounts of the war from military spokesmen in Saigon.

All 700 representatives of the world news media registered with the Joint Information Bureau in Dhahran are eligible for news pools. At the moment, 107 are participating in 11 pools and another 47 in seven pools may be added to cover a ground war.

Pools are organized by type of medium: wire services, newspapers, magazines, television and radio.

There are two large pools, each with 18 members, and nine smaller pools so far, most with seven members. Pools spend from a few hours to several weeks at sea, on air bases or with soldiers facing Iraqi forces in Kuwait and southern Iraq.

They live, sleep and eat with military personnel. The only difference is that they are not armed or in uniform, although they are issued flak jackets, helmets and gear to protect against chemical weapons.